

of equal rights, we as a community have benefitted tremendously. I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize Judge Carroll's tireless efforts and ask all Members of the House to join me in congratulating him as the Richmond Courthouse is officially renamed The George D. Carroll Courthouse.

SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND GOALS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS—

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the observance of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, 2009.

I urge all Americans during Domestic Violence Awareness Month to understand the different faces of domestic violence, as it is not defined only by battery against women and children, but also includes domestic sexual assault, teen dating violence, and non-physical emotional abuse, such as name calling and intimidation.

Domestic violence, regardless of type, disrupts the lives of men and women of all ages. Young children and adolescents are especially at risk for complications as exposure to violence can lead to behavioral and emotional problems.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), which I proudly co-sponsored, provides \$225 million to the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women, targeted at developing and supporting the capacity of state, local, tribal, and non-profit entities involved in responding to violence against women and also in helping them find alternative housing. I am also pleased that the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)—its passage in 1994 strongly by then Senator JOSEPH R. BIDEN Jr.—and the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) also received Recovery Act funding to boost the federal VAWA and VOCA funds that are already allocated to state and local governments each year.

Furthermore, in my home state of New York, Governor David Paterson signed a bill into law last month that takes a stronger response against domestic violence offenders and expands protection orders for victims. With this advancement in New York's state law, New York is leading the nation in strengthening our judicial system to stamp out domestic violence and abuse.

Though we may be taking great strides at the federal and state levels in addressing domestic violence, we cannot ignore that the problem originates in the home. If you feel you are or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE. Working together, we can all play a vital role in creating awareness about domestic violence and working toward ending this intolerable behavior.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL AUTHORITY IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2009

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the "Inspector General Authority Improvement Act of 2009."

This Act will provide the Inspector Generals of the various agencies the authority to issue subpoenas for the testimony of former employees or contractors as part of certain investigations of wrongdoing. Under current law, a critical witness can evade being interviewed by an Inspector General, and thus seriously impede an investigation, by simply resigning from the agency.

In January of this year, I released a report documenting several abuses and excesses of the Bush Administration. The Report, titled "Reining in the Imperial Presidency: Lessons and Recommendations Relating to the presidency of George W. Bush," contained 50 separate recommendations designed to restore and support the traditional checks and balances of our constitutional system. This bill responds to one of those recommendations.

As the Report details, that ability of Inspector Generals to investigate serious allegations of wrongdoing was significantly impeded during the prior Administration because critical witnesses could not be interviewed if they simply resigned during the investigation or had already left the agency. As a practical matter, the witnesses were beyond the reach of the Inspector General, and their knowledge of potential wrongdoing went with them.

For example, in the investigation of potential misconduct by Monica Goodling, the Department of Justice Inspector General was unable to obtain witness statements from those who had resigned and thus were no longer available. Similarly, the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General was limited in his ability to conduct a complete investigation into the circumstances surrounding the rendition of Canadian citizen Mohammed Arar to Syria. His Report stated bluntly: "Many of the principal decision-makers involved in the Arar case have left government service and declined our requests for interviews. As they are no longer DHS employees, we cannot compel them to speak with us."

It is important to note that this bill contains important limitations on the Inspector Generals' subpoena power in order to prevent abuse or damage to ongoing investigations. Most prominently, an Inspector General cannot issue a subpoena if the Department of Justice concludes in a particular case that the taking of a deposition would interfere with civil or criminal litigation.

I believe that with this limitation, this legislation strikes an appropriate balance between the need for an independent Inspector General to investigate administrative wrongdoing and the responsibility of the Attorney General to enforce our criminal laws and protect the civil interests of the United States Government.

This legislation will go a long way in fostering transparency in government by improving the Inspector Generals' tools and permit them to effectively carry out their mission.

Such vigorous oversight is a matter of good government, regardless of whether we have a Democratic or Republican Administration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, due to the death of my husband, Clifton H.W. Maloney, I did not vote from September 29, 2009 through October 13, 2009. I missed rollcall votes numbered 740–771.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes Nos.: 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 770, 771, 772, 773, and 774. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes Nos.: 746, 754, and 769.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 2009

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, in accordance with the policies and standards put forth by the House Appropriations Committee and the GOP Leadership, I would like to place in the record a listing of the congressionally directed project I requested in my home state of Idaho that is contained in the Conference Report accompanying H.R. 2892, the FY2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

Project Name: Power and Cyber Systems Protection, Analysis, and Testing Program
Amount: \$3,000,000

Account: NPPD Infrastructure Protection and Information Security

Recipient: Idaho National Laboratory
Recipient's Street Address: 2525 North Freemont St, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83415

Description: This funding will be used to conduct vulnerability analysis, testing, and protection of power and cyber connected systems for the Department of Homeland Security, utilizing the unique resources available at the Idaho National Laboratory, such as the electric grid, SCADA and control systems, cyber and communication test beds, and the explosives test range. The project entails collaboration with leading universities and other National Laboratories to leverage ongoing research at these institutions and advance the state of the art in building resilience into infrastructure systems. The funding will be used to obtain full-scale systems in sectors of interest to DHS for testing of vulnerabilities, identification of protection strategies, and evaluation of resilient designs; partner with universities and National Laboratories to develop resilient control systems; and establish a program that develops new protection schemes. The INL is uniquely placed to carry out this program, which leverages its ongoing work in this area sponsored by DOD, DHS, and Intelligence Agencies and its established relationships with industry, universities, and National Laboratories.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide a list of the Idaho project that has received funding